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6 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
7 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**
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9 Tonya Canady,

10 Plaintiff,

11 v.

12 Bridgecrest Acceptance Corporation,

13 Defendant.
14

No. CV-19-04738-PHX-DWL

ORDER

15 Pending before the Court are two related motions filed by Plaintiff Tonya Canady
16 (“Plaintiff”): (1) a motion to compel ESI search in response to Interrogatory No. 2 and RFP
17 Nos. 3, 4, and 7 (Doc. 128); and (2) a motion for extension of class discovery deadlines
18 (Doc. 118). Defendant Bridgecrest Acceptance Corporation (“Bridgecrest”) opposes both
19 motions. (Docs. 123, 142.) For the following reasons, both motions are granted.

20 **RELEVANT BACKGROUND**

21 Plaintiff’s core allegation in this case is that Bridgecrest violated the Telephone
22 Communications Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227 *et seq.* (“TCPA”), by placing calls to her
23 cell phone throughout 2018 and 2019 without her consent while using an artificial or
24 automated voice. (Doc. 1.)¹ The complaint is styled as a “Class Action Complaint” and
25 alleges that Plaintiff is pursuing claims “individually and on behalf of all others similarly
26 situated.” (*Id.* at 1-2.) To that end, in the “Class Allegations” section of the complaint,

27
28 ¹ The complaint also alleges that Bridgecrest violated the TCPA by using an
automatic telephone dialing system when making the challenged calls (Doc. 1 ¶ 37), but
Plaintiff has since clarified that she will not be pursuing that allegation (Doc. 83).

1 Plaintiff alleges that she is bringing claims on behalf of a “Pre-recorded Class,” which
2 “consists of: (1) All persons in the United States (2) subscribing to a cellular telephone
3 number (3) to which Bridgecrest placed a non-emergency telephone call (4) using a pre-
4 recorded message (5) within 4 years of the date this complaint is filed (6) after receiving a
5 request to no longer call that number.” (*Id.* ¶ 24.) The complaint also includes allegations
6 concerning why “[t]here are questions of law and fact common to the members of the Class
7 [that] predominate over any questions that affect only individual class members” (*id.* ¶ 31);
8 allegations concerning why Plaintiff is a proper class representative (*id.* ¶ 32); and
9 allegations concerning Plaintiff’s counsel’s experience in handling class actions (*id.* ¶ 33).

10 On August 24, 2021, the Court issued the scheduling order. (Doc. 61.) It authorized
11 a bifurcated discovery schedule under which Plaintiff could first pursue “precertification
12 discovery” and then file a motion for class certification, with merits discovery deferred
13 until after the certification decision. (*Id.* at 2.) With respect to discovery disputes, the
14 scheduling order provided: “The parties shall not file written discovery motions without
15 leave of the Court. Except during a deposition, if a discovery dispute arises and cannot be
16 resolved despite sincere efforts to resolve the matter through personal consultation (in
17 person or by telephone), the parties shall jointly file (1) a brief written summary of the
18 dispute, not to exceed three pages per side, explaining the position taken by each party, and
19 (2) a joint written certification that counsel or the parties have attempted to resolve the
20 matter through personal consultation and sincere efforts as required by Local Rule of Civil
21 Procedure 7.2(j) and have reached an impasse.” (*Id.* at 5.) Additionally, the scheduling
22 order provided that “[a]bsent extraordinary circumstances, the Court will not entertain fact
23 discovery disputes after the deadline for completion of fact discovery and will not entertain
24 expert discovery disputes after the deadline for completion of expert discovery. Delay in
25 presenting discovery disputes for resolution is not a basis for extending discovery
26 deadlines.” (*Id.* at 5-6.)

27 On August 30, 2021, as part of her effort to pursue class discovery in anticipation
28 of filing of motion for class certification, Plaintiff propounded her first set of

1 interrogatories and requests for production (“RFPs”) to Bridgecrest. (Doc. 128-1.) As
 2 relevant here, Interrogatory No. 2 sought to compel Bridgecrest to:

3 Identify each cellular telephone number (and any associated name, address,
 4 or account number) to which you placed a non-emergency telephone call
 5 using an artificial or prerecorded voice from July 3, 2015 to the present after
 6 Bridgecrest had received a request to cease calling that number. Please
 7 include the date of each call and the telephone number dialed. If you contend
 8 that a response to this interrogatory is impossible, please explain why with
 specificity, and provide the most complete response possible, including the
 total number of unique cellular telephone numbers called. Also, if you do not
 know and cannot determine which calls were made to cellular telephone
 numbers, answer this interrogatory as if the word “cellular” was omitted from
 it, and Plaintiff will determine which calls were made to cellular telephones.

9 (*Id.* at 5.)

10 Interrogatory No. 6 sought to compel Bridgecrest to:

11 Identify, by vendor, version and dates in operation, all database [sic] in which
 12 Bridgecrest has stored data regarding stop, do-not-call, do-not contact, and
 13 similar notifications. For each database, provide the data dictionary, identify
 14 each table that contains call data or information about a stop, do-no-call [sic],
 do-not-contact or similar notification, identify and define all codes and fields
 in each such table, and define the nature of the data in each field (e.g., phone
 number called, date called, call duration, etc.).

15 (Doc. 89-1 at 15.)

16 RFP No. 3 sought to compel Bridgecrest to produce “[t]he complete database tables
 17 showing any calls responsive to Interrogatory Nos. 2-3 above, or all other records of such
 18 calls.” (Doc. 128-1 at 7.)

19 RFP No. 4 sought to compel Bridgecrest to produce “[r]ecordings of all calls
 20 Bridgecrest made between July 3, 2015 and the present, in which the person who answered
 21 the phone asked that they not be called or contacted (or similar), as well as all records
 22 pertaining to calls made to those same telephone numbers or person after the date of the
 23 recording.” (*Id.*)

24 Finally, RFP No. 7 sought to compel Bridgecrest to produce “[a]ll documents that
 25 identify the persons responsive to Interrogatory Nos. 2-3.” (*Id.*)

26 Bridgecrest has made clear throughout these proceedings that it believes Plaintiff
 27 will never be able to obtain class certification because this is a revocation-of-consent case.
 28 (*See, e.g.*, Doc. 111 at 2 [“Plaintiff seeks to certify a class of individuals who allegedly

1 revoked their consent to be called. Yet, as this case makes obvious, revocation of consent
2 cases are rarely certifiable because revocation of consent is an individual, fact-intensive
3 issue that is not appropriate for class treatment.”].) To that end, Bridgecrest filed a motion
4 in September 2021 to strike Plaintiff’s class allegations. (Doc. 65.) Additionally, when it
5 came time to respond to Plaintiff’s interrogatories and RFPs in October 2021, Bridgecrest
6 objected on the ground that Interrogatory No. 2 and RFP No. 7 “seek[] information
7 regarding customers who could never be part of Plaintiff’s putative class.” (Doc. 89-1 at
8 6; Doc. 90-1 at 22). Additionally, Bridgecrest argued these discovery requests were unduly
9 burdensome because, to comply,

10 Bridgecrest would arguably be required to (1) identify every call it made
11 during the last six-and-a-half years using an artificial voicemail, (2)
12 determine which of those calls were made to a cellular telephone, (3) listen
13 to recordings of the calls and/or interview its employees and past employees
14 to determine whether the calls were for emergency purposes (*e.g.*, fraud
15 alerts), as that term is broadly understood, and (4) listen to recordings and/or
interview its employees and past employees regarding the content of every
call made prior to a non-emergency artificial voicemail to determine if the
customer had ever requested that Bridgecrest “cease calling that number” or
later re-consented to receiving calls. That process could take tens of
thousands of hours, or more.

16 (Doc. 89-1 at 5; Doc. 90-1 at 21.)

17 On January 26, 2022, the parties filed joint notices informing the Court of discovery
18 disputes concerning, *inter alia*, Interrogatory Nos. 2 and 6 and RFP Nos. 3, 4, and 7. (Docs.
19 89, 90.)

20 On January 31, 2022, the Court issued an order denying Bridgecrest’s motion to
21 strike Plaintiff’s class allegations. (Doc. 91.) Among other things, the Court explained
22 that “Bridgecrest’s essential argument is that [Plaintiff’s] class allegations should be
23 stricken because, when it comes time to formally take up the issue of certification under
24 Rule 23, [Plaintiff] won’t be able to meet her burden ‘because individual questions of
25 revocation predominate, putative class members lack commonality, and Plaintiff is not
26 representative of the class,’” but because “[t]hese are the same issues that will be decided
27 when determining whether to grant class certification, . . . Bridgecrest’s reliance on Rule
28 12(f) is misplaced.” (*Id.* at 5.)

On February 10, 2022, the Court heard oral argument regarding the parties' discovery disputes. The Court did not resolve the parties' disputes concerning Interrogatory No. 2 and RFP Nos. 3, 4, and 7 because it did not appear that the parties had adequately met and conferred about them. (Doc. 94.) As for Interrogatory No. 6, which called for Bridgecrest to produce the "data dictionaries" for the databases in which it stored do-not-call information, the Court ordered Bridgecrest to comply. (*Id.*) The Court explained that it was hopeful such "data dictionary" information would be useful to the parties in crafting search terms that could be used when "attempt[ing] to obtain discovery in pursuit of class certification" and ordered the parties to meet and confer with respect to search terms once Bridgecrest's production in response to Interrogatory No. 6 was complete. (*Id.*) Finally, and relevant here, the Court clarified that "[i]f disputes remain after counsel have complied with this Court's order . . . counsel may file a formal Motion to Compel." (*Id.*)

On March 15, 2022, Plaintiff filed a "motion to enforce." (Doc. 101.) In a nutshell, Plaintiff argued that Bridgecrest had not yet produced the data dictionary information it had been ordered to produce on February 10, 2022. (*Id.*)

On March 22, 2022, the Court heard oral argument. (Doc. 105 [minute entry]; Doc. 130 [transcript].) On the one hand, the Court faulted Plaintiff for bringing the dispute to the Court's attention via a unilaterally filed motion instead of via the joint-notice procedure set forth in the scheduling order. (Doc. 130 at 9.) On the other hand, the Court disapproved of Bridgecrest's failure to timely produce the data dictionary information:

Everybody seemed to be crystal clear at that [February 10] hearing . . . that Bridgecrest could comply with pretty quickly, and once that got done that would pave the way for hopefully resolving a lot of the parties' other discovery disputes that this was sort of a bottleneck for. So I will say that I was surprised when I saw [Plaintiff's motion] come in, and I saw that a month and change after we had this hearing where it seemed like Bridgecrest expressed no concerns whatsoever about producing the data dictionaries . . . you then see this chain of correspondence between the two sides [where] Plaintiff is just repeatedly asking for updates and they're just sort of getting the runaround until they're finally forced to file something, and then only after they file something you belatedly comply with the discovery request . . . on the very day you file your response and then act [like] the whole thing is moot. . . . I'm not thrilled by it because this is not at all what I was expecting when I concluded the last discovery dispute hearing.

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2 (*Id.* at 9-10.) Ultimately, the Court issued a renewed order for Bridgecrest to comply with
3 Interrogatory No. 6, set a compliance deadline of March 29, 2022, and clarified that “[i]f
4 [Plaintiff] remains dissatisfied with the response that they get by March 29th, . . . the next
5 time around I do want the parties to follow my dispute discovery process rather than filing
6 motions.” (*Id.* at 14.)

7 On March 29, 2022, Bridgecrest served a supplemental response to Interrogatory
8 No. 6. (Doc. 108-2.) Upon receipt, Plaintiff asserted that the response remained
9 incomplete. (Doc. 108 ¶¶ 4-5.) It appears that, in lieu of seeking intervention from the
10 Court, Bridgecrest agreed to resolve this dispute by producing more information. (*Id.*)

11 On April 15, 2022, Bridgecrest served another supplemental response to
12 Interrogatory No. 6. (Doc. 108 ¶ 5 & n.1; Doc.127-1 [under seal].) “This supplemental
13 response contained 340 data fields spread across nine database tables, and more than 5,000
14 rows of data.” (Doc. 108 ¶ 5.)

15 On May 9, 2022, after analyzing Bridgecrest’s production of April 15, 2022 and
16 conferring with a consultant, Plaintiff “asked Bridgecrest to produce some additional
17 records needed to craft the appropriate ESI search terms—*i.e.*, each record referencing her
18 cellphone number, as well as her husband’s, that were stored in the database tables
19 identified in the response to Interrogatory No. 6.” (*Id.* ¶ 6. *See also* Doc. 108-3 at 6.)

20 On May 13, 2022, after not receiving a response, Plaintiff sent a follow-up inquiry
21 to Bridgecrest. (Doc. 108-3 at 5.)

22 On May 17, 2022, after again not receiving a response, Plaintiff sent another follow-
23 up inquiry to Bridgecrest. (*Id.*) That same day, Bridgecrest responded by stating, *inter*
24 *alia*, that “we hope we’ll be able to get you any supplemental information on that soon.”
25 (*Id.* at 4.)

26 On May 20, 2022, Plaintiff received a production from Bridgecrest. (*Id.* at 3.)

27 On May 23, 2022, Plaintiff sent a follow-up email noting that certain call recordings
28 remained missing, requesting dates for certain undated recordings, and inquiring “as to the

1 status of the records referencing Plaintiff's and Mr. Canady's numbers in each database
2 table identified in Interrogatory No. 6." (*Id.*)

3 On May 25, 2022, after not receiving a response, Plaintiff sent the following follow-
4 up inquiry: "Following up again. Please advise." (*Id.* at 2.)

5 On May 26, 2022, after again not receiving a response, Plaintiff sent an email that
6 again inquired as to the status of the records referencing Plaintiff's and Mr. Canady's
7 numbers, noted that it was a time-sensitive issue, and requested a response "ASAP." (*Id.*)

8 On May 27, 2022, Bridgecrest provided a supplemental production. (Doc. 108 ¶ 7;
9 Doc. 128-4 at 8.) That same day, Plaintiff sent a response email suggesting that the
10 supplemental production might be incomplete and asking Bridgecrest to "confirm that there
11 are no records related to Plaintiff stored in the remaining ten tables." (Doc. 128-4 at 8.)

12 Also on May 27, 2022, Plaintiff filed a motion for an extension of the deadline to
13 complete class discovery. (Doc. 108.) Plaintiff argued that Bridgecrest's production of
14 May 27, 2022 remained deficient and that more time was needed:

15 Plaintiff is still conferring with Bridgecrest regarding the remaining records
16 needed to craft the ESI search terms, and Plaintiff hopes to resolve the issue
17 by agreement. However, given that it took 64 days for Bridgecrest to provide
18 a full response to Interrogatory No. 6, and nearly three weeks to produce a
narrow set of records related to Plaintiff, the Parties cannot complete the ESI
search by the June 9, 2022 class discovery deadline.

19 (*Id.* ¶ 8.)

20 Bridgecrest filed an opposition to the extension request, arguing that any class
21 discovery should be disallowed because "individual issues about who has authority to
22 revoke consent, whether consent was revoked, and the scope of any revocation make
23 'revocation' cases inappropriate for class treatment." (Doc. 111 at 3.) Additionally,
24 Bridgecrest argued that Plaintiff had been "relentlessly seeking overbroad class discovery"
25 but had not been diligent in scheduling Bridgecrest's deposition. (*Id.* at 3, 7-8.)

26 On June 9, 2022, the Court heard oral argument on Plaintiff's extension request.
27 (Doc. 115 [minute entry]; Doc. 139 [transcript].) Acknowledging that "it's a close call,"
28 the Court concluded that the extension request should be granted because Plaintiff had

1 “been diligent.” (Doc. 139 at 28.) The Court elaborated:

2 [T]he thrust of what was going on [during the earlier discovery dispute
3 hearings] is there was agreement that the plaintiffs need to be able to craft
4 keywords to run a search through Bridgecrest’s database, because that would
5 be the key to unlocking the rest of the class discovery process. And so we’ve
6 already had a lot of proceedings in this case about trying to get in a position
7 so that they could run the search . . . that they need to run to do what they
8 need to do for discovery purposes. . . . [I]t does appear to me that the
9 plaintiffs have been diligent in attempting to finalize the ESI keyword search
10 that they need to do, and that we’ve all been focusing on for the last couple
11 of months. . . . [Although] it is not entirely clear to me why the plaintiffs
would have been unable to come up with a keyword search on March 29th
or April 15th when they got the big initial production and then a substantial
supplemental production of dictionary definitions and all the sorts of things
that we were talking about in February, and why they needed to continue
asking for additional information after April 15th in order to run the keyword
searches[,] . . . I [accept Plaintiff’s counsel’s explanation] that the additional
data [Plaintiff] requested . . . would give a better foundation for
understanding the database and understanding how to run . . . better
calibrated keyword searches.

12 (*Id.* at 28-29.) Thus, the Court extended the deadline for the completion of class discovery
13 to August 9, 2022 and extended the deadline for the filing of a class certification motion to
14 January 30, 2023. (Doc. 115.)

15 On June 10, 2022, Plaintiff sent a follow-up email to Bridgecrest concerning
16 Plaintiff’s email of May 27, 2022, which (as noted above) sought confirmation that
17 Bridgecrest’s supplemental production of May 27, 2022 was complete: “Following up.
18 Please advise.” (Doc. 128-4 at 7.)

19 On June 16, 2022, after not receiving a response, Plaintiff sent another follow-up
20 email: “Third follow-up. Please advise.” (*Id.*)

21 That same day, Bridgecrest responded by characterizing Plaintiff’s emails as “self-
22 serving nonsense” and stating that Bridgecrest believed its earlier production was
23 complete. (*Id.* at 6-7.)

24 That same day, Plaintiff responded by identifying reasons the May 27, 2022
25 production may be incomplete and again asking for a confirmation of completeness. (*Id.*
26 at 6.) Bridgecrest’s response was short and dismissive. (*Id.* at 5-6.)

27 On June 17, 2022, Plaintiff elaborated on her request for confirmation. (*Id.* at 4-5.)

28 On June 21, 2022, Bridgecrest responded that “we have no reason to believe there

1 is additional information, and you obviously do not either. . . . [I]f we discover any
 2 information was missing we will supplement our response accordingly. We [have]
 3 absolutely no reason to believe, however, we'll have anything to supplement.” (*Id.* at 4.)

4 On June 27, 2022, Plaintiff proposed, for the first time, the search terms for the
 5 proposed search. (Doc. 128-5 at 5.) Specifically, Plaintiff proposed that Bridgecrest
 6 conduct the following two searches:

- 7 1. Provide all account notes, call records/logs, and call recordings for each phone
 8 number Bridgecrest called after the corresponding account notes reflect an entry
 9 captured through the following natural language search: DNC or “do-not-call”
 10 or “do not call” or (“do not” or stop! or quit! or “don’t” “should not” or
 11 “shouldn’t” or cease /5 call! or contact!).
- 12 2. Provide all account notes, call records/logs, and call recordings for each phone
 13 number Bridgecrest called after it was listed in the table DNCPHONE with: (1)
 the field “isActiveDNC” coded as “true;” and (2) the field
 DNCRemoveReasonID coded as “null.”

14 (*Id.*)

15 On July 5, 2022, the parties held a conference call to discuss Plaintiff’s proposal.
 16 According to a summary email drafted by Plaintiff’s counsel following the call,
 17 Bridgecrest’s counsel stated during the call that he had “forwarded [Plaintiff’s] proposed
 18 terms to Bridgecrest, and expect[ed] to have Bridgecrest’s position on what it [would] take
 19 to conduct the search within the next day or so.” (Doc. 128-6 at 7.) However, Bridgecrest’s
 20 counsel disputed this characterization: “I did not say I would know within a day or so what
 21 it will take to conduct the search. In fact, I pointed out the opposite—that, as we have
 22 previously advised on numerous occasions, I do not think such a search is possible. But I
 23 will discuss with my client and get back to you.” (*Id.* at 6.)

24 On July 8, 2022, Plaintiff sent a follow-up email: “[I]s there any word on the ESI
 25 search?” (*Id.* at 5-6.)

26 On July 11, 2022, Plaintiff sent another follow-up email: “Following up on the
 27 below. What did your client say about the proposed ESI search. [sic] Please advise.
 28 Thanks.” (*Id.* at 5.) That evening, Bridgecrest responded: “We are still investigating and

1 hope to have a response to you by the end of the week.” (*Id.* at 4-5.)

2 On July 12, 2022, Plaintiff wrote a response email:

3 Is there a particular concern your client has or are you still waiting to hear
4 from them? We are burning a lot of time just to get confirmation whether
5 your client has any issues to even try running the searches. Once again, if
there is an issue, I suggest we have ESI liaisons discuss directly to resolve an
issues [sic] in short order instead of the attorneys going back and forth.

6 (*Id.* at 4.)

7 On July 14, 2022, after not receiving a response, Plaintiff sent a follow-up email:
8 “Following up on the below. Please advise.” (*Id.* at 3.) That same day, Bridgecrest sent a
9 response that provided in part as follows: “[W]e hope to have a response to you by the end
10 of the week (and it may be early next week), either of which is much quicker than the
11 amount of time Bridgecrest would have to respond to these requests if Plaintiff had
12 properly requested this information through a discovery request.” (*Id.*)

13 On July 19, 2022, Bridgecrest provided a substantive response, opposing Plaintiff’s
14 request to run the two requested searches. (Doc. 128-7 at 3-5.) Bridgecrest’s overarching
15 position was that:

16 Bridgecrest objects to Plaintiff’s requests because, among other reasons, they
17 are ridiculously overbroad, not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery
18 of admissible evidence, and the burden or expense of the requests outweighs
any possible benefit. In fact, Plaintiff’s requests just further prove that this
case could never be certified as a class action.

19 (*Id.* at 3.) More specifically, Bridgecrest identified various reasons why Plaintiff’s
20 proposed searches would capture information regarding individuals who could not qualify
21 as class members. (*Id.* at 4.) Separately, Bridgecrest asserted:

22 From a logistics aspect, Bridgecrest also has no automated method to tie hits
23 on Plaintiff’s requested keyword search to specific subsequent phone
24 numbers later dialed, as the phone number associated with a specific account
25 note is not separately logged in the account note system. Thus, even if the
26 account notes reflected that the customer did not want Bridgecrest to call a
27 particular number, a keyword search would not be able to determine whether
28 a call was subsequently made to that number. Complying with Plaintiff’s
request would thus require Bridgecrest to individually review each account
note, call log, and recording for any accounts that had a search hit (even
though the search hits are not limited to possible class members) . . . Nor
could any purported benefit of searching for and reviewing such voluminous
records outweigh the prohibitive cost, particularly where almost all
individuals associated with the search cannot be part of Plaintiff’s putative
class.

1
2 (*Id.*) Bridgecrest made clear that these objections applied to both of the proposed searches.
3 (*Id.* at 5.)

4 That same day, Plaintiff sent the following response: “Since you are objecting the
5 expense outweighs the benefit, what is the cost to run the searches? Along that line, we
6 can have our database expert conduct the searches at no [cost] to Defendant.” (*Id.* at 3.)

7 On July 26, 2022, Bridgecrest sent a response. (*Id.* at 2.) Bridgecrest did not attempt
8 to quantify the cost of running the searches, as had been requested, but argued that allowing
9 Plaintiff’s expert to run the searches was not a feasible solution because the proposed
10 searches would generate information “that is not relevant to this matter” and “[s]uch
11 information is not discoverable regardless of cost or expense.” (*Id.*) Alternatively,
12 Bridgecrest argued:

13 The costs associated with Plaintiff’s requests are prohibitive regardless of
14 whether you or Plaintiff “run the searches.” For example, even if limited just
15 to Plaintiff’s first request, for the reasons set forth in our previous
16 correspondence a result-by-result review would be necessary to determine,
17 among other things, whether a DNC request was actually made, whether the
18 number associated with the keyword search hit was subsequently called, if
the person that made the DNC is subject to an arbitration agreement, whether
the person who made the DNC request or someone else with sufficient
authority re-consented, the type of phone at issue, the type of call at issue,
and if the called party’s jurisdiction even permits bargained-for-consent to
be revoked.

19 (*Id.*)

20 It appears the parties stopped meeting and conferring about the search terms after
21 Bridgecrest sent its July 26, 2022 email. The next relevant event occurred on July 28,
22 2022, when Plaintiff conducted a Rule 30(b)(6) deposition of Bridgecrest. Although the
23 transcript of this deposition does not appear to be available, Plaintiff’s counsel avows in a
24 declaration that “[d]uring the deposition, [Bridgecrest’s 30(b)(6) representative] estimated
25 it would take roughly two hours to generate a list of each phone number Bridgecrest placed
26 on its internal DNC list at the recipient’s request along with the corresponding date and
27 time, while excluding any instances in which a phone number on the internal DNC list had
28 subsequently been removed. [The representative also] testified the time required to

1 generate the list would remain the same regardless of how many phone numbers were
2 identified in the search.” (Doc. 128-9 ¶¶ 3-4.)

3 On August 5, 2022—that is, four days before the August 9, 2022 deadline for the
4 completion of class discovery (Doc. 115)—Plaintiff lodged a sealed version of the first
5 motion now pending before the Court, which is a motion to compel Bridgecrest to comply
6 with Interrogatory No. 2 and RFP Nos. 3, 4, and 7. (Docs. 116, 117.) A redacted version
7 of the motion was eventually filed on the public docket on August 22, 2022. (Doc. 128.)
8 The motion is now fully briefed. (Doc. 142 [response]; Doc. 158 [reply].)

9 On August 9, 2022, Plaintiff filed the other motion now pending before the Court,
10 which is a motion to extend class discovery deadlines. (Doc. 118.) The motion is now
11 fully briefed. (Doc. 123 [response]; Doc. 136 [reply].)

12 Neither side requested oral argument on either motion.

13 DISCUSSION

14 I. Motion To Compel

15 A. **Legal Standard**

16 Rule 37(a)(3)(B) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides that “[a] party
17 seeking discovery may move for an order compelling an answer, designation, production,
18 or inspection” when the non-moving party “fails to answer an interrogatory submitted
19 under Rule 33” or “fails to produce documents . . . as requested under Rule 34.”

20 Rule 26(b), in turn, defines the “Scope and Limits” of discovery. Under Rule
21 26(b)(1), “[p]arties may obtain discovery regarding any nonprivileged matter that is
22 relevant to any party’s claim or defense and proportional to the needs of the case,
23 considering the importance of the issues at stake in the action, the amount in controversy,
24 the parties’ relative access to relevant information, the parties’ resources, the importance
25 of the discovery in resolving the issues, and whether the burden or expense of the proposed
26 discovery outweighs its likely benefit.”² Under Rule 26(b)(1), “[i]nformation . . . need not

27 ² The current version of Rule 26(b)(1) was enacted in 2015. An earlier version
28 provided that the requested material had to be “relevant to the subject matter involved in
the pending action,” and the Ninth Circuit has recognized that the change in 2015 (under
which “the ‘subject matter’ reference [was] eliminated from the rule, and the matter sought

1 be admissible in evidence to be discoverable.”

2 As for the burden of proof, “the party seeking to compel discovery has the initial
3 burden of establishing that its request satisfies the relevancy requirements of Rule 26(b).”
4 *Doe v. Swift Transp. Co.*, 2015 WL 4307800, *1 (D. Ariz. 2015). This “is a relatively low
5 bar.” *Continental Circuits LLC v. Intel Corp.*, 435 F. Supp. 3d 1014, 1018 (D. Ariz. 2020).
6 *See generally* 1 Gensler, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Rules and Commentary, Rule
7 26, at 801-02 (2021) (“For discovery purposes, courts define relevance broadly, stating that
8 information is relevant if it bears on or might reasonably lead to information that bears on
9 any material fact or issue in the action. . . . [C]ourts are quick to point out that discovery
10 is concerned with relevant information—not relevant evidence—and that as a result the
11 scope of relevance for discovery purposes is necessarily broader than trial relevance.”)
12 (footnotes and internal quotation marks omitted). If the movant meets its burden of
13 establishing relevancy, “the party opposing discovery has the burden to demonstrate that
14 discovery should not be allowed due to burden or cost and must explain and support its
15 objections with competent evidence.” *Doe*, 2015 WL 4307800 at *1.

16 Finally, LRCiv 7.2(j), entitled “Discovery Motions,” provides that “[n]o discovery
17 motion will be considered or decided unless a statement of moving counsel is attached
18 thereto certifying that after personal consultation and sincere efforts to do so, counsel have
19 been unable to satisfactorily resolve the matter. Any discovery motion brought before the
20 Court without prior personal consultation with the other party and a sincere effort to resolve
21 the matter, may result in sanctions.”

22 ...

23 ...

24
25 must [now] be ‘relevant to any party’s claim or defense’”) “was intended to restrict, not
26 broaden, the scope of discovery.” *In re Williams-Sonoma, Inc.*, 947 F.3d 535, 539 (9th
27 Cir. 2020). *See also* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26, advisory committee’s note to 2015 amendment
28 (noting that Rule 26(b)(1) was amended in 1983 in part “to encourage judges to be more
aggressive in identifying and discouraging discovery overuse,” that the “clear focus of the
1983 provisions may have been softened, although inadvertently, by [subsequent]
amendments,” and that the 2015 amendment was intended in part to “restore[] the
proportionality factors to their original place in defining the scope of discovery”).

1 **B. The Parties’ Arguments**

2 Plaintiff moves to compel Bridgecrest to run the two searches outlined Plaintiff’s
 3 email of June 27, 2022, which are intended to generate information responsive to Plaintiff’s
 4 Interrogatory No. 2 and RFP Nos. 3, 4, and 7. (Doc. 128.) Plaintiff argues the requested
 5 information is relevant because “[t]he point of the search was to obtain: (1) the information
 6 sought in Interrogatory No. 2—*i.e.*, identification of each cellphone number Bridgecrest
 7 called for non-emergency purposes using a prerecorded message after receiving a stop call
 8 requests [sic] along with the dates of each call and any associated information regarding
 9 the recipient; and (2) the corresponding call logs, recordings, and account notes reflecting
 10 those calls, which fall within the scope of RFP No. 3, 4, and 7.” (*Id.*) According to
 11 Plaintiff, such “information is aimed directly at identifying the members of the proposed
 12 class, which is plainly relevant to certification.” (*Id.* at 9-10.) As for Bridgecrest’s
 13 contention that “nothing obtained through the proposed search terms would be relevant to
 14 certification,” Plaintiff contends this objection is not only inaccurate but premature, as
 15 “[w]hether those putative class members . . . should be excluded from the class is an issue
 16 for the Court to resolve at class certification.” (*Id.* at 10-13.)

17 As for Bridgecrest’s contention that the search is technologically infeasible, Plaintiff
 18 contends that “the call records use a specific code that makes identifying the pre-recorded
 19 message a simple task that can be performed in a matter of minutes” and “Plaintiff’s expert
 20 can identify which phone numbers are assigned to cellphone numbers by cross referencing
 21 the numbers called with historical cellular databases.” (*Id.* at 13.) As for Bridgecrest’s
 22 concerns over the sensitive and confidential nature of the requested information, Plaintiff
 23 contends that such concerns are unfounded in light of the existence of the agreed-to
 24 protective order in this case. (*Id.* at 13-14.) And as for Bridgecrest’s concerns “about the
 25 need to conduct an ‘individualized inquiry’ to identify the regular user or subscriber for
 26 each cellphone number at issue, and instances of ‘invalid revocation,’” Plaintiff contends
 27 that these “are legal arguments that go to the propriety of class certification, which have no
 28 bearing on the permissible scope of discovery.” (*Id.* at 14.)

1 Turning to the question of undue burden, Plaintiff argues that Bridgecrest has failed
2 to meet its burden because it “has not provided a single affidavit (or any other evidence[])
3 to back up its burden objection,” and “[i]n fact, when Plaintiff asked for details about the
4 costs involved in running the search, Bridgecrest deflected by stating the class discovery
5 at issue was ‘not discoverable regardless of costs or expense,’ and there was no point trying
6 to perform the search because the proposed class could never be certified.” (*Id.* at 15.)
7 Plaintiff argues that “extracting data from computer databases is standard fare in TCPA
8 class actions, which is precisely why courts routinely reject the notion that doing so
9 constitutes an ‘undue burden.’” (*Id.*) According to Plaintiff, “[e]ven assuming the
10 corresponding account notes, call logs, recordings, and documents identifying the
11 recipients are housed in [multiple] databases, the fact that Bridgecrest may need to extract
12 and combine data from multiple sources does not rise to the level of an undue burden,
13 particularly when there is no indication Bridgecrest cannot [create] a program to streamline
14 the process.” (*Id.* at 16.) Finally, Plaintiff argues that she “has mooted any purported
15 undue burden and expense by offering to have her expert perform the work so long as
16 Bridgecrest provides access to its systems.” (*Id.* at 16-17.)

17 Bridgecrest opposes Plaintiff’s motion for a host of procedural and substantive
18 reasons. (Doc. 142.) As for the procedural reasons, Bridgecrest first argues the motion is
19 untimely because it was filed on the eve of the deadline for completing class discovery.
20 (*Id.* at 5-6.) In a related vein, Bridgecrest contends that Plaintiff was not diligent in
21 proposing the search terms that give rise to the current dispute because she “could have
22 proposed [the] searches months ago” and “waited yet another month” after receiving
23 Bridgecrest’s supplemental production of May 27, 2022. (*Id.* at 6.) Next, Bridgecrest
24 argues that Plaintiff violated LRCiv 7.2(j) by failing to meet and confer in good faith before
25 filing the motion. (*Id.* at 6-7.) According to Bridgecrest, Plaintiff did not meaningfully
26 respond to the concerns that Bridgecrest raised in its emails of July 19 and 26, 2022, other
27 than to write a two-sentence response to the first email. (*Id.*) Finally, Bridgecrest argues
28 the motion is also procedurally improper because it violates the provision in the scheduling

1 order requiring discovery disputes to be presented by way of a joint summary. (*Id.* at 7-8.)

2 Turning to its substantive concerns, Bridgecrest objects to Plaintiff's first request—
3 *i.e.*, for Bridgecrest to conduct a “natural language search” of the “account notes” for the
4 term “do not call,” or variations thereof, and then produce “all account notes, call
5 records/logs, and call recordings for each phone number Bridgecrest called” after having
6 received one of these “do not call” variations (Doc. 142-1 ¶ 3)—for two reasons: (1) the
7 request is overbroad and not reasonably likely to lead to a certifiable class because, *inter*
8 *alia*, “virtually all of Bridgecrest’s customers are subject to arbitration agreements, and
9 thus cannot be part of Plaintiff’s putative class” (Doc. 142 at 11); and (2) the request would
10 result in an undue burden because “there is not a way to systematically perform the
11 requested search across all account notes and subsequent calls.” (*Id.* at 9.) Expounding on
12 the latter, Bridgecrest asserts that Plaintiff has not “identified any such search
13 methodology, despite the extensive data in her possession regarding Bridgecrest’s system,”
14 and “[e]ven if the search could be systematically performed, it would still require an
15 account-by-account review because of the extensive amount of mishits that would be
16 returned by Plaintiff’s overbroad search.” (*Id.*) According to Bridgecrest:

17 Assuming it would only take an employee five minutes (and that is an
18 unrealistically low estimate) to review each search hit, such a review would
19 take thousands of hours (despite that discovery on class certification is
20 already over) to determine if such numbers were subsequently called and
evaluate whether a subsequent call was permissible because the individual
re-consented, the original revocation was partial, or some other reason.

21 (*Id.* at 10.)

22 As for Plaintiff’s second request—*i.e.*, for Bridgecrest to identify the subset of
23 records listed in the “table DNCPhone” where the field “isactiveDNC” coded as “true” and
24 the field DNCRemoveReasonID coded as “null” and then produce “all account notes, call
25 records/logs, and call recordings for each phone number Bridgecrest called” despite having
26 been listed in the table (Doc. 142-1 ¶ 8.)—Bridgecrest raises the same objections of
27 overbreadth/irrelevance and undue burden. (Doc. 142 at 11-15.) Bridgecrest concludes by
28 reiterating why it believes that, regardless of whether the proposed searches are conducted,

1 Plaintiff will never be able to certify a class due to the predominance of individualized
2 issues. (*Id.* at 15-17.)

3 In reply, Plaintiff first argues that her motion is not procedurally improper because
4 the Court expressly authorized, following the February 2022 discovery hearing, the filing
5 of a motion to compel (in lieu of a joint summary) as to any future dispute related to
6 keyword searches. (Doc. 158 at 2.) Next, Plaintiff argues there was no violation of the
7 meet-and-confer requirement because she made good-faith efforts to confer with
8 Bridgecrest's counsel following the search proposal, only for Bridgecrest's counsel to
9 ignore follow-up requests, fail to quantify the cost of the search, and fail to respond in good
10 faith to her offer to have her expert conduct the searches. (*Id.*) Next, Plaintiff argues that
11 her motion is not untimely because it was filed before the close of the relevant discovery
12 period, "Plaintiff took every possible measure to meet and confer with Bridgecrest about
13 the proposed ESI search before filing this Motion, only to be met with resistance each step
14 of the way," and "Bridgecrest only recently revealed an entirely separate database that can
15 be systematically searched to identify every prerecorded call placed to a particular number
16 during within a specified date range, which could have streamlined the process of carrying
17 out the search months ago." (*Id.* at 2-4.) Next, Plaintiff argues that courts routinely allow
18 class discovery before deciding the question of certification. (*Id.* at 4-5.) Next, Plaintiff
19 argues that Bridgecrest's undue burden arguments are unavailing because Bridgecrest's
20 Rule 30(b)(6) representative conceded that "there is a way to 'systematically' perform the
21 Keyword Searches across all account notes and subsequent calls" and, "[t]hus, performing
22 the Keyword Search should be a straightforward issue of querying the database storing the
23 account notes to identify DNC requests, followed by a separate search of the ATDS
24 database to identify any subsequent prerecorded calls placed to those numbers, and then
25 comparing the results." (*Id.* at 6.) Plaintiff cites cases in support of the proposition that
26 "the task of matching the data obtained from two different databases is commonplace in
27 modern litigation." (*Id.*) Plaintiff also identifies other TCPA cases in which similar
28 keyword searches were performed with little burden. (*Id.* at 6-8.) Plaintiff reiterates that

1 even “[a]ssuming Bridgecrest could show running either ESI search would impose an
 2 undue burden, Plaintiff mooted any objections on that point by offering to have her expert
 3 do so.” (*Id.* at 8-9.) Finally, Plaintiff argues that all of Bridgecrest’s overbreadth objections
 4 “are just legal defenses to class certification, which have no bearing on this discovery
 5 dispute.” (*Id.* at 11.)

6 C. Discussion

7 In the Court’s estimation, Bridgecrest bears much of the fault for the current state
 8 of affairs. Bridgecrest appears to believe that it shouldn’t be required to engage in any
 9 class-related discovery in this case, because Plaintiff’s certification request will inevitably
 10 be denied, and that Plaintiff’s discovery-related requests are nothing more than a nuisance
 11 intended to drive up costs and extract an unwarranted settlement. (Doc. 111 at 3 [“These
 12 type of individual issues about who has authority to revoke consent, whether consent was
 13 revoked, and the scope of any revocation make ‘revocation’ cases inappropriate for class
 14 treatment. Despite this, Plaintiff’s counsel has been relentlessly seeking overbroad class
 15 discovery to try to gain leverage in this case.”].)

16 The difficulty with this position is that Bridgecrest agreed at the outset of the case
 17 to bifurcate the discovery process into two parts, with the first part encompassing class-
 18 related discovery. (Doc. 58 at 9 [Rule 26(f) report: “[T]o ensure that any discovery is as
 19 efficient and economical as possible, Bridgecrest intends to file a motion to bifurcate class
 20 discovery from merits discovery.”]; *id.* at 14 [“The Parties believe a seventh-month pre-
 21 certification fact-discovery period is appropriate”].) Additionally, the Court made
 22 clear when denying Bridgecrest’s motion to strike that it would be premature to decide the
 23 merits of the certification issue until the certification stage of the case (which, as noted,
 24 Bridgecrest had previously agreed would occur *after* precertification discovery). (Doc.
 25 91.) Thus, Bridgecrest should have—and, indeed, was required to—participate in good
 26 faith in the precertification discovery process, including meeting and conferring in good
 27 faith with Plaintiff’s counsel over Plaintiff’s class-related discovery requests.

28 The Court emphasized this point during the February 10, 2022 discovery dispute

1 hearing. Not only did the Court order Bridgecrest to produce additional information in
2 response to Interrogatory No. 6 (which sought information about Bridgecrest’s data
3 dictionaries) so that Plaintiff could formulate better keyword searches, but the Court also
4 specifically ordered the parties “to meet and confer regarding Plaintiff’s attempts to obtain
5 discovery in pursuing class certification” once the additional information was produced.
6 (Doc. 94.) Despite this directive, it does not appear that Bridgecrest has cooperatively
7 participated in Plaintiff’s subsequent efforts to pursue class discovery via keyword
8 searches. During the March 22, 2022 hearing (which was necessitated by Bridgecrest’s
9 failure to promptly comply with the February 10, 2022 production order), the Court
10 observed that Plaintiff’s counsel was “repeatedly asking for updates and they’re just sort
11 of getting the runaround until they’re finally forced to file something.” (Doc. 130 at 9-10.)

12 The parties’ subsequent email correspondence indicates that not much has changed
13 since that observation. As noted in the Background section of this order, above, there have
14 been multiple episodes since March 2022 in which Plaintiff’s counsel sought information
15 about a certain search-related topic, only to have to reply-all to his own email one or more
16 times due to a lack of response from Bridgecrest. Moreover, it does not appear that
17 Bridgecrest has ever attempted to find a way to narrow Plaintiff’s requests in a way that
18 might address Bridgecrest’s concerns over overbreadth and burden—instead, Bridgecrest
19 has simply pointed out perceived flaws in Plaintiff’s proposals and reiterated its belief that
20 any class discovery would be a waste of time. This is not, in general, the way the discovery
21 process is supposed to work, and it was certainly not the way the discovery process was
22 supposed to work in this case, where the Court made clear that Plaintiff was entitled to
23 engage in class-related discovery and specifically ordered Bridgecrest to meet and confer
24 with Plaintiff in an attempt to craft appropriate search terms.

25 Given this backdrop, the Court has little trouble rejecting many of Bridgecrest’s
26 arguments as to why the motion to compel should be denied. Procedurally, the motion was
27 timely (because Plaintiff filed it before the close of discovery and less than two weeks after
28 the dispute came to a head) and was filed in a permissible form (because the Court stated

1 during the February 22, 2022 discovery hearing that Plaintiff could file a motion to compel,
2 rather than a joint summary, if any future disputes arose concerning the search terms).
3 Substantively, Bridgecrest’s overbreadth and relevance objections are unavailing. The
4 Court has made crystal-clear that Plaintiff should be allowed to pursue *some* class
5 discovery, and it is also clear at least *some* of the information that would be produced in
6 response to the two searches Plaintiff proposed on June 27, 2022 would be relevant to the
7 certification inquiry. Even if the proposed search parameters are overbroad, and thus will
8 result in the production of certain other information that is irrelevant to the certification
9 inquiry, Bridgecrest has made no effort to narrow the proposed search parameters. As a
10 result, Bridgecrest cannot complain about overbreadth—instead, it must establish that
11 running the searches proposed by Plaintiff would result in an undue burden.

12 Whether Plaintiff exhausted the meet-and-confer process, as required by LRCiv
13 7.2(j), presents a closer question. The relevant chronology is that Plaintiff proposed the
14 two searches on June 27, 2022 (Doc. 128-5) and, after some back and forth, Bridgecrest
15 sent a detailed response on July 19, 2022 (Doc. 128-7 at 3-5). The response stated that the
16 proposed searches were not feasible “[f]rom a logistics aspect” because Bridgecrest “has
17 no automated method” to perform the search. (*Id.*) In response, Plaintiff asked Bridgecrest
18 to quantify the cost of conducting a more individualized review and suggested that its
19 expert could perform the review at no cost. (*Id.* at 3.) One week later, on July 26, 2022,
20 Bridgecrest explained—without providing the quantification requested by Plaintiff—that
21 allowing Plaintiff’s expert to run the searches would not solve the problem because “the
22 costs” would be “prohibitive” even if Plaintiff’s expert ran the searches, due to the
23 complexities involved. (*Id.* at 2.) Plaintiff stopped meeting and conferring with
24 Bridgecrest about these issues after receiving the July 26, 2022 email.

25 The cessation of meet-and-confer activity here was unfortunate. In the Court’s
26 estimation, the crucial issue is whether Plaintiff’s offer to have her expert run the searches
27 would ameliorate the cost and undue burden objections raised by Bridgecrest. But during
28 the meet-and-confer process, the parties never truly engaged on this point. The parties

1 talked past each other in their email exchange between July 19-26, 2022, then stopped
2 talking altogether.

3 Even though it might be possible, when looking at the July 19-26, 2022 exchange
4 in isolation, to fault Plaintiff for the lack of continued meet-and-confer efforts, this episode
5 must be viewed in the broader context of this case. The Court's overall impression is that
6 Plaintiff has exhibited diligence in attempting to devise and hone a search methodology for
7 obtaining class discovery while Bridgecrest has not. This pattern repeated itself during the
8 exchange of July 19-26, 2022, when Bridgecrest did not meaningfully respond to Plaintiff's
9 request for a cost estimate for Bridgecrest to run the searches or to Plaintiff's alternative
10 offer to have her expert run the searches at no cost. Given Bridgecrest's lack of
11 responsiveness, as well as the fact that the discovery deadline was about to expire, it is
12 understandable why Plaintiff felt it necessary to seek judicial intervention in lieu of
13 continuing to meet and confer.

14 This leaves Bridgecrest's final substantive objection, which is that running the
15 proposed searches would result in an undue burden. This argument fails for several
16 reasons. First, the burden-related assertions in Bridgecrest's July 19, 2022 and July 26,
17 2022 emails were simply the representations of counsel, who was presumably relaying
18 technical information about Bridgecrest's records systems that he learned from others.
19 That approach may have been permissible during the meet-and-confer process, but now
20 that the dispute has reached the motion-to-compel stage, Bridgecrest bears the burden of
21 "support[ing] its [undue burden] objections with competent evidence." *Doe*, 2015 WL
22 4307800 at *1. Bridgecrest has not, however, submitted any evidence concerning the cost
23 of running the proposed searches. Additionally, although Bridgecrest has submitted a
24 declaration from an individual who is familiar with Bridgecrest's database systems, who
25 avows that he is "not aware of any way to perform [the Keyword Search] on a systematic
26 basis across all account notes" (Doc. 133-1 ¶ 6), this individual's declaration is quite terse
27 and does not go into anywhere near the level of detail that was provided in counsel's July
28 19, 2022 and July 26, 2022 emails. This is also the same individual who, according to

1 Plaintiff's counsel's declaration, made admissions to the contrary when acting as
2 Bridgecrest's Rule 30(b)(6) designee on July 28, 2022. (Doc. 128-9 ¶¶ 3-4.) Bridgecrest
3 does not acknowledge Plaintiff's argument on this point in its response brief. Perhaps it is
4 possible to reconcile the two sets of statements, but it was Bridgecrest's burden to attempt
5 to do so.

6 Second, and more important, even assuming it would be unduly burdensome for
7 *Bridgecrest* to run the proposed searches, Plaintiff has offered to have her expert run the
8 searches at no expense to Bridgecrest. Although Bridgecrest asserted in its email of July
9 26, 2022 that "the costs associated with Plaintiff's requests are prohibitive regardless of
10 whether . . . Plaintiff 'run[s] the searches'" (Doc. 128-7 at 2), Bridgecrest has never
11 provided a persuasive explanation of why that would be the case. Bridgecrest argues that
12 "having Plaintiff's expert run the search does not eliminate the significant time and expense
13 required to cull the inordinate number of mishits that would be generated by Plaintiff's
14 search" (Doc. 142 at 10), but if Plaintiff's expert is performing the culling, it is unclear
15 why the cost would somehow be shifted to Bridgecrest.

16 Finally, to the extent Bridgecrest's position is simply that it would be unacceptable
17 to allow an outsider to have access to its databases, the Court understands this concern but
18 notes that (1) it is addressed, at least in part, by the protective order in place in this action,
19 and (2) Bridgecrest's unwillingness to work cooperatively with Plaintiff during the
20 discovery process is one reason why the option of having Plaintiff's expert conduct the
21 search is even on the table.

22 For these reasons, Plaintiff's motion to compel is granted. As for what Bridgecrest
23 is specifically being compelled to do, the two options would be to require Bridgecrest to
24 run the proposed searches or to order Bridgecrest to provide access to its databases so
25 Plaintiff's expert can run the searches. Because both options have their own downsides,
26 the Court will allow Bridgecrest to decide how it wishes to proceed.

27 ...

28 ...

1 **II. Motion To Extend**

2 **A. Standard Of Review**

3 A motion to modify the deadlines set forth in the scheduling order is governed by
 4 Rule 16(b)(4)'s "good cause" standard. *Johnson v. Mammoth Recreations, Inc.*, 975 F.2d
 5 604, 607-08 (9th Cir. 1992). This "standard primarily considers the diligence of the party
 6 seeking the amendment If that party was not diligent, the inquiry should end." *Id.* at
 7 609.

8 **B. The Parties' Arguments**

9 Plaintiff moves to extend all of the certification-related deadlines in the scheduling
 10 order. (Doc. 118.) The requested length of the extension is, with one exception, 90 days.
 11 (*Id.* at 13-14.) The exception is the deadline for Plaintiff to provide her expert disclosures
 12 related to certification. Although the original scheduling order stated that this deadline
 13 would fall 30 days after the deadline for completing precertification discovery (Doc. 61 at
 14 2-3), Plaintiff contends that, due to a "scrivener's error" in a previous extension request,
 15 it fell only two days after the deadline for completing precertification discovery in the most
 16 recent version of the scheduling order. (Doc. 118 at 13 n.8.) Thus, Plaintiff asks that this
 17 deadline be reset to fall 30 days after the extended deadline for completing precertification
 18 discovery. (*Id.*) Plaintiff's essential argument is that her extension requests should be
 19 granted because she had been diligent in pursuing class discovery, whereas "Bridgecrest
 20 never intended to comply with the Order by carrying out the ESI search needed to obtain
 21 the class discovery sought in Plaintiff's Discovery Requests" and had the "real goal" of
 22 "prevent[ing] Plaintiff from obtaining this critical data by dragging out the process until
 23 the class discovery deadline had nearly expired." (*Id.* at 12 ¶ 20.)

24 Bridgecrest opposes Plaintiff's extension request. (Doc. 123.) As an initial matter,
 25 Bridgecrest argues the request is untimely because it is intertwined with the motion to
 26 compel, which is also untimely. (*Id.* at 9-10.) Bridgecrest further argues the request should
 27 be denied because Plaintiff failed to act with diligence. (*Id.* at 10-14.) More specifically,
 28 Bridgecrest argues that diligence is lacking because (1) Plaintiff unreasonably waited until

1 June 27, 2022 to propose the two searches, even though Plaintiff had the information
 2 necessary to formulate the proposed searches in February and April 2022; and (2) Plaintiff
 3 did not meaningfully respond to the objections that Bridgecrest raised on July 19, 2022,
 4 but instead waited three weeks and then filed a motion to compel on the eve of the
 5 discovery cutoff. (*Id.* at 10-12.) Bridgecrest also disputes that it bears any blame for the
 6 delays. (*Id.* at 12-14.) Finally, Bridgecrest specifically objects to Plaintiff's request to
 7 have the expert disclosure deadline fall 30 days (rather than two days) after the new
 8 discovery deadline, arguing that Plaintiff was careless in allowing the change to be made
 9 in the first place and should have acted sooner to correct it. (*Id.* at 14-15.)

10 In reply, Plaintiff reiterates her contention that she has been diligent and that
 11 Bridgecrest is to blame for the delays:

12 Plaintiff originally requested the class data more than a year ago, the Court
 13 then denied Bridgecrest's motion to strike the class allegations to allow class
 14 discovery, including Bridgecrest's argument that no discovery should be
 15 allowed because Plaintiff cannot certify a class. Then, after the Court
 16 provided the Parties with an additional two months to carry out the ESI
 17 search for the class data, Bridgecrest set about ensuring that search never
 18 occurred, all the while delaying the process when it never had any intention
 19 of producing class discovery. For example, when Plaintiff sought
 confirmation she had received all of the records she requested to help create
 the proposed search terms, Bridgecrest spent the next month giving her the
 run around. And despite faulting Plaintiff for refusing to confer about its
 inability to carry out the ESI search, Bridgecrest offers no insight into why it
 ignored three separate requests to schedule a joint call with the Parties'
 respective ESI liaisons to discuss that very topic.

20 (Doc. 136 at 1-2.) Plaintiff also offers various reasons why she needed additional time,
 21 after receiving some information from Bridgecrest in early 2022, to formulate the searches
 22 she proposed in June 2022. (*Id.* at 3-6.) As for her purported failure to meet and confer
 23 after receiving Bridgecrest's objections to the proposed searches, Plaintiff responds:

24 After running through its stock objection about the need to conduct an
 25 individualized, result-by-result review to filter out "irrelevant" results—
 26 which was . . . a non-issue, given that Plaintiff's expert would be the one
 27 conducting the searches—Bridgecrest maintained there was no point doing so
 because Plaintiff's claim was "inappropriate for class treatment." Though
 Bridgecrest faults Plaintiff for failing to respond, there was nothing left to
 say.

28 (*Id.* at 7.) Finally, Plaintiff explains why the resetting of the expert disclosure deadline was

1 inadvertent and argues that she has been diligent in seeking relief as to that issue. (*Id.* at
2 9-10.)

3 **C. Analysis**


4 Given the analysis in Part I above, little more needs to be said here. On balance, the
5 Court finds that Plaintiff has been diligent in pursuing precertification discovery and that
6 Bridgecrest bears much (if not all) of the blame for the delays in completing that discovery.
7 Thus, the extension request is granted. Finally, Bridgecrest's attempt to maintain only a
8 two-day gap between the close of precertification discovery and the deadline for Plaintiff's
9 expert disclosures related to certification, where it is obvious that the parties' original intent
10 was for there to be a 30-day gap and it would make no logical sense to allow only a two-
11 day gap, borders on the petty and is denied.

12 Accordingly,

13 **IT IS ORDERED** that:

- 14 1. Plaintiff's motion to compel (Doc. 128) is **granted**.
- 15 2. Plaintiff's motion to extend class deadlines (Doc. 118) is **granted**. The new
16 deadline to complete class discovery is November 9, 2022. The new deadline for Plaintiff
17 to submit her expert disclosure is December 12, 2022. The new deadline for Bridgecrest
18 to submit its expert disclosures is to January 11, 2023. The new deadline for Plaintiff to
19 submit her rebuttal expert disclosures is February 14, 2023. The new deadline for the
20 parties to complete expert depositions is March 28, 2023. The new deadline for Plaintiff
21 to submit her motion for class certification is May 1, 2023.

22 Dated this 27th day of September, 2022.

23
24
25 
26 _____
27 Dominic W. Lanza
28 United States District Judge